"Worship"

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Worship.

Jn. 4;24 For God is Spirit; and those who worship him must worship him in Spirit and in truth. //////

Intro. I What is the church for?

1. To teach
    - a. In apostolic days — the doctrine & practice ~~the~~ Gospel & O.T. interpretation of X.
      There arose the sermon
    - b — Wife's explanation to her pastor as to why her husband never went to church.
    - c. Religious instruction & character building.
2. To Make X known. Ch. always has been a missionary society.
   Every member a missionary — personal responsibility
3. To exemplify charity, helping all in need.

I. The primary importance of worship.

1. The church has always been a gathering place for the worship of God. Temple & synagogue, Jerusalem — attracted Jews from all the world.
   ~~Apostle Paul~~ —
2. Men who say they can worship elsewhere as well if not better than in church. Emily Dickinson

"Some keep the sabbath going to church;
I keep it staying at home,
With a bobolink as chorister,
And an orchard for a dome."

Not a modern Idea. over 2000 yrs ago a religious teacher said in conversation with a woman

2/ "The hour cometh when neither in this mountain (Gerazim) nor in Jerusalem shall ye worship the Father. [God is Spirit and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and truth [The hour cometh + now is when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in Spirit + in truth: for such doth the Father seek to be his worshippers."

3. Nevertheless, Jesus himself went to church, to the synagogue + temple!

Conclusion — the more a man realizes the presence of God in the whole of life + in all life, the stronger will be his impulse to frequent the sanctuary set apart for worship, where like-minded persons can worship together.

When a modern man says he can worship as well in the open country, in the mountains, by a golf course, he likely means that he does'nt have to worship God at all. He probably will tell you that religion is the life you live, integrity in business, neighborly kindness — not singing hymns + saying prayers!

But I would like to ask all such-minded men — has anyone ever placed more emphasis on the right kind of living, on character + neighborly service than did Jesus? Nevertheless Jesus worshipped regularly in synagogue + temple + urged his followers to do the same.

II. The Fruits of worship.

1. Practical, tangible results – Words from "Religion & Art" by Alessandro Della Seta, professor of archeology in Univ. of Genoa: "All the art of the human race is essentially religious art; from the Chaldean to the Egyptian, from the Mycenean to the Greek, from the Assyrian to the pre-Buddhist Chinese, from the Mexican to the Peruvian – there is no exception. Art, then, will never arise and develop among men unless it has a foundation in religion: Art absolutely profane in origin . . . . is inconceivable in human history and has absolutely never existed."

Painting, architecture, sculpture, drama, poetry and music had their origin in worship. You find no greater music than that which Beethoven, Mozart, Handel & Bach created for choirs and organs of the church!

2. Spiritual results of worship.

a. Worship has done much to inspire & develop all that is greatest & most beautiful in the qualities of human character.

Has it not been in those hours when the soul was lifted into conscious communion with God that men have clearly recognized their kinship with the divine and the unworthiness of living in the world of the mere animal?

4/ the highest ideals and aspirations of humanity have been born out of the same impulse which caused Jesus to attend church worship regularly, which caused St. Paul to travel over land & sea to Jerusalem — the desire to worship God.

b. The decay of the family altar and preoccupation with material things & material success, I greatly fear has weakened our impulse to worship God.

And in so far as our desire to worship God has weakened, we are the losers, for the very garden spots of our souls become parched and overrun with weeds when we neglect to worship God.

The beautiful flowers — Mrs. Price's garden.

Conclusion — During Lent, let us revive within us the Spirit of worship!

From fear to awe, to joy, to love!

Only as we come into the presence of God do we see ourselves aright!

Why do you come to church? To learn? Good — to hear a an interesting sermon? well & good, but unless you come to experience the presence of God and to be touched by the Spirit of God — you are not getting the real, supreme good of the church service.